

REMARKS

In the outstanding official action, the Examiner required an election of species, under 35 U.S.C. § 121, between the following alleged patentably distinct species of the invention:

- I. Species 1 - Figures 1 and 5;
- II. Species 2 - Figures 2 and 5;
- III. Species 3 - Figures 3 and 5; or
- IV. Species 4 - Figures 4 and 5.

The Applicant elects to prosecute Species 1 of the claimed invention shown in Figs. 1 and 5 of the drawings. The Applicant also elects claims 26, 27, 29 and 33-48 which are all now believed to be readable on the elected species to be prosecuted on the merits.

The Applicant does not waive any rights with respect to the non-elected species and does not intend to abandon that subject matter. If the Examiner makes the election requirement final, the Applicant respectfully requests that the non-elected species be withdrawn from further consideration but remain in this application subject to reinstatement, in the event that a generic claim is allowed, or for possible filing of a divisional application(s).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding election of species requirement should be withdrawn and examination of all claims pending in this application, on the merits, is respectfully requested at the present time.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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